ACT TWO

SCENE 1

The lights comes up and we see repeated the last section of The Raid.

The bell rings, PEOPLE *scream and run, and the lights immediately fade: leaving* SENATOR WINGWOAH *and* GINGER *in a spotlight in* GINGER*'s bedroom, and* EDSEL *and the* REPORTERS *in a spotlight on the pit steps. The* SENATOR *has been literally caught with his pants down.*

As the GROUP OF REPORTERS *speak,* SENATOR WINGWOAH *will struggle to get his clothes back on, with* GINGER'S *assistance.*

EDSEL. You mean to say, Senator, that you have no independent recollection of how you got to the Chicken Ranch?

SENATOR WINGWOAH. That's God's own truth. 'Course, now, I got my suspicions. I mean who's the most dedicated anti-Communist in the State Legislature?

EDSEL. I suspect you're about to nominate yourself.

SENATOR WINGWOAH. It stands to reason they'd want to harm my good name!

REPORTER 1. But how were you coaxed into a whorehouse?

SENATOR WINGWOAH. I'm surprised you boys hadn't figgered that out for yourself. I was doped!

(*The* REPORTERS *react.*)

SENATOR WINGWOAH. (*Continued.*) Yessir, Communists are always dopin' our college kids. I was easy prey.

EDSEL. Senator, there used to be a Communist over in Waco. But he died in '68.

REPORTER 2. Presumably then, these Communist agents stripped you and planted you in a strange bed?

SENATOR WINGWOAH. All unbeknowing to myself, yessir! But just remember that church ain't over til they sing! Once this thing has been exposed, I'll be vindicated. (*He zips up his fly.*)

AIDE. Ladies and Gentlemen . . . His Excellency, the Governor of Texas.

(*The band plays a fanfare which continues through the* GOVERNOR*'s entrance.*

The GOVERNOR *enters, beaming and waving.* HE *is followed by* SENATOR WINGWOAH. *The* GOVERNOR *acts as if* HE*'s receiving the plaudits of multitudes, throws his arms over his head and gives the V for Victory sign. Then* HE *suddenly and viciously silences the band and the cheer with a gesture.*)

GOVERNOR. My friends I want to thank you for that warm and sincere Christian welcome.

AIDE. Gentlemen, you may ask your questions now.

REPORTER 1. Governor, Sir, what do you think of the explosive situation in the Middle East?

GOVERNOR. Well, I was sayin' at the weekly Prayer breakfast, just this mornin' in this historic capital, that it behooves both the Jews and the A-rabs to settle their differences in a Christian manner.

(*His* AIDES *and* ENTOURAGE *applaud wildly.*)

REPORTER 2. How do you account, Governor, for the current high unemployment rate in our state?

GOVERNOR. Ain't nothin' unusual about it. It's just the natural law of economics. Now the real cause of this unemployment thing is that . . . people are out of work!

(*Once again wild applauses from* AIDES.)

THORPE. Governor: Governor. Melvin P. Thorpe, Watch Dog News. What about the Chicken Ranch, Governor?

(*A moment of shocked silence, then.*)

"THE SIDESTEP"

GOVERNOR.
FELLOW TEXANS
I AM PROUDLY STANDING HERE TO HUMBLY SAY
I ASSURE YOU
AND I MEAN IT
NOW WHO SAYS I DON'T SPEAK OUT AS PLAIN AS DAY?